

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07
NSC-06 /037 W

-----127439 150821Z /11

R 150600Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)
SUBJ: CODEL PRICE IN ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS MEETING WITH CODEL PRICE, PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN WELCOMED SADAT'S WILLINGNESS TO COME TO
JERUSALEM BUT STATED THAT ISRAEL CANNOT ACCEPT THE
MORTAL DANGER OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN
STATE. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD
ADHERE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON SOUTH
AFRICA AFTER ITS MEANING IS CLARIFIED. DAYAN REJECTED
THE IDEA OF SHARED ISRAELI-JORDANIAN SOVEREIGNTY ON
THE WEST BANK AND ANY PROPOSAL FOR TOTAL DEMILITARIZATION
THERE, SAYING ISRAEL REQUIRES CERTAIN MILITARY SITES
(SEE SEPTTEL). DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN PRESENTED
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HIS VIEWS ON SETTLEMENTS AND ON THE WEST BANK, EM-
PHASIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
DMC AND HERUT. DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN DISCUSSED
THE ISRAELI-ARAB MILITARY BALANCE OF FORCES AND
ISRAELI ARMS REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEWED ISRAELI POLICY
TOWARD LEBANON. END SUMMARY

2. DURING ITS VISIT TO ISRAEL NOV 8-11, CODEL PRICE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN; SOME MEMBERS OF THE CODEL ALSO MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN. THE PRICE DELEGATION WAS BRIEFED BY AMBASSADOR LEWIS. THEY VISITED THE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS OF PHATSIAEL (JORDAN VALLEY, AND PE'ERIM (MES'HA, JUST EAST OF THE GREEN LINE), AND THEN, DIVIDING INTO TWO GROUPS, TRAVELED BY HELICOPTER TO THE GOOD FENCE NEAR METULLA OR TO THE SINAI FIELD MISSION. MEMBERS OF THE CODEL WERE LUNCHEON GUESTS OF MK MOSHE ARENS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AND WERE HOSTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN TO A DINNER RECEPTION. (COMMENT: THE CODEL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BEGIN, YADIN, AND WEIZMAN LARGELY COVERED STANDARD ISRAELI GROUNDS, AS REPORTED BELOW. DAYAN ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF TOPICAL INTEREST, AND HIS REMARKS ARE CONTAINED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.)

3. BEGIN. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THE DELEGATION TO MAKE TWO POINTS WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT WHEN THEY MET WITH HIM IN A FEW DAYS: FIRST, THAT SADAT WOULD BE WELCOME IN JERUSALEM FOR THE START OF PEACE TALKS, JUST AS BEGIN HIMSELF WOULD BE GLAD TO GO TO CAIRO; AND SECOND, THAT ISRAEL CANNOT ACCEPT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORTAL DANGER POSED BY THE ARAB DEMANDS FOR A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE (IN JUDEA/ SAMARIA AND THE GAZA STRIP WITH A CORRIDOR). ISRAEL MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AND PRECONDITIONS, BEGIN ADDED, AND SAID HE BELIEVES THAT IF A DIALOGUE STARTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS, SOMETHING CAN BE ACHIEVED. BEGIN PRESENTED STANDARD ISRAELI ARGUMENTS AGAINST A PALESTINIAN STATE, PORTRAYED THE CHRISTIANS OF SOUTH LEBANON AS A RELIGIOUS MINORITY FACING ANNIHILATION, EQUATED THE PALESTINIAN CHARTER WITH HITLER'S MEIN KAMPF, AND DREW ON VARIOUS HISTORICAL THEMES TO SUPPORT HIS ARGUMENTS CONCERNING THE WEST BANK.

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06
AID-01 /037 W

-----127554 150841Z /16

R 150600Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASS TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9304
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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4. YADIN/WEIZMAN MEETINGS. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN PRESENTED HIS PARTY'S VIEWS ON THE WEST BANK AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, INDICATING THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIS VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. INSPEAKING OF ISRAEL'S REQUIREMENT FOR MILITARY SITES IN THE JORDAN VALLEY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN ISRAELI-JORDANIAN AGREEMENT YADIN SAID THAT HE HAD NO PLANS FOR PARTICULAR SITES BUT WOULD ACCEPT, FOR EXAMPLE, WHATEVER LOCATIONS A JOINT US/USSR TEAM AGREED ON. (COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST OCCASION WE HAVE HEARD THIS IDEA MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ONLY IN PASSING. IT WAS NOT FOLLOWED UP IN QUESTIONING BY CODEL.) RE SADAT'S STATED WILLINGNESS TO COME TO JERUSALEM, YADIN INTERPRETED IT AS A SIGN THAT SADAT MIGHT HAVE GIVEN UP EFFORTS TO WORK OUT COORDINATED TACTICS WITH SYRIA. IF THIS IS THE CASE,
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HE REASONED, THE NEXT QUESTION IS THE SAUDI REACTION, FOR THE SAUDIS NEED TO PREVENT RIFTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA LEST ARAB INSTABILITY THREATEN THE SAUDI REGIME. YADIN CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY SUGGESTING THAT THE US-ISRAEL ARMS RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BEST DEVELOP IF ISRAEL UNDERTOOK TO PRODUCE ITS OWN WEAPONS USING

US TECHNOLOGY ("BUT NOT FOR EXPORT"), FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE F-16. IN ANOTHER MEETING, DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN OUTLINED THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES AND SKETCHED THE ISRAELI-ARAB BALANCE OF MILITARY FORCES. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON SOUTH LEBANON, WEIZMAN IMPLIED THAT RECENT ROCKET ATTACKS ON NORTHERN ISRAEL WERE MADE BY "CERTAIN PARTIES" WHO WISHED TO PREVENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN "US, THE SYRIANS AND FATAH." HE ADDED WITHOUT ELABORATION "BUT WE'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS NEXT WEEK, I HOPE."

5. TOURING. THE CODEL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MG AVRAHAM ORLY (COORDINATOR OF THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES, I.E., THE MILITARY GOVERNOR) ON ITS VISITS TO A JORDAN VALLEY MOSHAV (PHATSUEL) AND TO THE SETTLEMENT OF PE'ERIM, WHICH LIES JUST EAST OF THE 1967 LINE. ORLY EMPHASIZED THE DEFENSIVE PURPOSES OF THE SETTLEMENTS, STATED THAT NO SETTLEMENTS ARE ESTABLISHED ON PRIVATELY-OWNED ARAB LAND (BUT ON LAND PREVIOUSLY HELD BY JORDAN), AND SAID THAT JORDANIAN LAW STILL PREVAILS FOR THE ARABS OF THE WEST BANK. AT PE'ERIM, THE CODEL WAS GREETED BY 120 GUSH EMUNIM CHILDREN WHO SANG SONGS OF WELCOME.

6. COMMENT: BEGIN'S PRESENTATION WAS ONE OF THE BEST RENDITIONS WE HAVE HEARD OF HIS STANDARD SPEECH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HE EXHIBITED HIS USUAL CHARM IN RECEIVING THE CODEL. YADIN AND WEIZMAN ALSO MADE EFFECTIVE EXPOSITIONS. JUDGING FROM OUR IMPRESSIONS AND THE AMOUNT OF FAVORABLE LOCAL PUBLICITY, THE CODEL HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL TRIP, HIGHLIGHTED PERHAPS BY THEIR TIMELY FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO CAIRO AND THEIR ROLE AS INTERLOCUTORS OF THE BAGIN-SADAT DIALOGUE.

7. THIS MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED AFTER CODEL DEPARTED. LEWIS

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